

May 4, 1880.

Prof. W. H. Flower, LL.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

The Secretary read the following report on the additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of April 1880:—

The total number of registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of April was 82, of which 33 were by presentation, 5 by birth, 36 by purchase, 7 were received on deposit, and 1 in exchange. The total number of departures during the same period, by death and removals, was 69.

The most noticeable additions during the month of April were as follows:—

1. An example of the Short-toed Perameles (*Perameles obesula*, Gould's Mammals of Australia, vol. i. pl. 12), purchased April 15th, being the first example of this Marsupial which we have received for the Menagerie.

2. A young male Cape Hunting-dog (*Lycan pictus*), presented by C. Ernest Pope, Esq., of Alice, Victoria East, South Africa, and received April 19th. Mr. Pope informs me, writing on March 1st, that the specimen was then, he believed, about ten months old, and had been fed almost entirely upon the small intestines of sheep. It had been captured when quite young and brought up with some Pointer puppies, with whom it had lived on familiar terms. The only previous example of this animal received by the Society of late years was that acquired in 1871 (see P. Z. S. 1871, p. 298).

3. A Koala or native Bear of Australia (*Phascolarctus cinereus*),



Koala. reduced from a drawing by Mr. T. W. Wood, F.Z.S., published in 'The Field' of May 22nd, 1880.

purchased April 28, being the first example of this peculiar Marsu-
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pial that has been brought alive to Europe. Many attempts have been made by the friends and correspondents of the Society in Australia to induce specimens of this animal to live in captivity; but all have hitherto failed. The present example, which was purchased of a dealer in London, was brought home fed upon dried leaves of *Eucalyptus*, and had been several weeks in this country before it was acquired by the Society.

I also take this opportunity of calling attention to the fine Toucan, brought from the State of Tolima, U. S. of Colombia, and presented to the Society by Mr. L. Merino on the 26th of August 1826, and still living in the Parrot-house. This Toucan was correctly entered in the list of additions in 1876 (P. Z. S. 1876, p. 834) as *Ramphastos ambiguus*, but in the last edition of the List of Animals (1879, p. 258) was unfortunately referred to *R. tocard*, a closely allied but perfectly distinct species.

R. ambiguus is readily recognizable, as will be seen by the coloured drawing of the head which I now exhibit, by the black colour of the lower and of the base of the upper mandible, where in *R. tocard* there is a large reddish blotch. This is well shown in Mr. Gould's plates (Ramph. ed. 2, pls. iv. & v.); but the naked space round the eye in *R. ambiguus*, which is there coloured blue, should be of a pale yellowish green.

Mr. Sclater exhibited a specimen of the Ibis (*Geronticus comatus*) obtained at Biledjik on the Euphrates by Mr. Danford in February 1879 (as mentioned by him in a recent number of 'The Ibis,' 1880, p. 88, and there referred to *Geronticus calvus*)—and made some remarks on its previously known distribution, which appeared to extend from Tangier on the west (Favier in Irby's 'Birds of Gibraltar,' p. 192) to Gomfuda upon the Arabian shore of the Red Sea (Hempr. & Ehr., in Rüppell's Syst. Ueb. p. 119): It was singular that the bird had not been hitherto obtained in Eastern Palestine, which it would apparently pass through on its northern migration.

Dr. Günther informed the meeting that he had received another communication from the Rev. G. Gordon with respect to the occurrence of *Holacanthus tricolor*¹ in the Western Isles. His correspondent had made further personal inquiries at Lossiemouth, from which it appeared that the specimen was brought from Stornoway to Lossiemouth, that it had been carried to "Stornoway by the master of a small ship that had come from Glasgow, and that the fish had not been caught at Stornoway by a herring-net or otherwise." Under these circumstances it could not be held that this specimen had been caught on the British shores.

Prof. F. Jeffrey Bell exhibited an immature specimen of an Echinoid belonging to the Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art, and made the following remarks:—

The specimen which I have now the honour of exhibiting to the

¹ P. Z. S. 1880, p. 23.

Society, is the one to which I referred to in my description of *Palæolampas crassa*¹ as being under the charge of Dr. Traquair, in the Museum of Science and Art at Edinburgh. Dr. Traquair has just arrived in London, and early this morning was good enough to bring me the specimen to the British Museum.

I have examined it with considerable interest and profit; but I do not find myself able to place it in the new genus *Palæolampas*; it is, I suspect, a comparatively young example of some species of the genus *Echinolampas*, or, possibly, of *Conoclypeus*. The following are its more important characters and measurements:—

Length 33·3 millims., height 17 millims. Test very delicate. The actinal and anal orifices, which have lost all covering-plates, are of proportionally large size; the former is without bourrelets, but is provided with well-developed tubercles. When we compare it with *Echinolampas*, we find that the characters of the actinostome are already as well defined as in *E. depressa*, and we see, moreover, the probability of the young form undergoing some further modification, such as would in all likelihood bring it, when adult, into very close resemblance to *E. oviformis* (cf. especially var. *orientalis* of Gray). So, again, the irregularly cordiform anus is not so large even in this younger state as it is in *E. depressa*, while its proportionally greater size than in an adult *E. oviformis* is only what we should expect.

The apical pole is a little anterior to the geometrical centre of the upper surface, and is not at the highest point of the test.

Coming next to the point which indicates that this creature belongs to a race which is more highly specialized than *Palæolampas*, we find that its affinities to *Echinolampas oviformis* are here, again, not obscurely indicated: there is not, indeed, the same difference, as in the adult, between the lengths of the rows of the pores of the same area; but they all cease to exhibit the regular paired arrangement of the rows of pores at a considerable distance from the ambitus; the odd anterior ambulacrum ends at 8 millims. above the ambitus; of the antero-lateral the left is a little longer, and the right is a little shorter than the odd one; the postero-lateral are, as in the allied forms, a little longer; and the paired character of the rows of ambulacral pores ceases somewhat more gradually. The pores are rounded; and there is no slit-like enlargement of one, such as is to be seen in *P. crassa* or *E. depressa*. As in *E. oviformis*, there is a delicate ridge separating every pair of pores from its neighbour; and we have therefore the pores in grooves.

If these points are not sufficient to show that the specimen from the Edinburgh collection is more highly differentiated than *Palæolampas*, I may add two other facts:—

(1) Save for about a third of the actinal surface, around the actinostome, the ambulacral pores on that surface are exceedingly rare, rarer even than in the adult *E. depressa*.

(2) The primary tubercles are more distant than in *P. crassa*; and though, on the whole, still very regularly arranged, there is a

¹ P. Z. S. 1880, p. 43.

bare band of considerable extent, on the actinal surface, between the anus and the actinostome. This is more marked than any space on the actinal surface of *E. depressa*.

The final question as to the specific relationship of the form now under description appears to me to be one which lack of material prevents us from answering completely. The considerations which I now adduce, and a comparison of this specimen with the figure given by Prof. A. Agassiz of *E. depressa* (and of *Conoclypeus*) will prevent us from associating it with that species; it can hardly be, I think, a young specimen of *E. hellei*, if, indeed, that be a distinct species. Unfortunately we have no intermediate specimens, and Dr. Traquair has no information with regard to this one, which might help us to determine whether or no it be a young specimen of the widely distributed *E. oviformis*.

If such be not the case, it will be the young of some undescribed and unknown *Echinolampas*, with which, when found and described, there will, I hope, be associated the name of the eminent naturalist to whose kindness we owe the present opportunity of inspecting this very interesting form.

Mr. W. A. Forbes exhibited a small fragment of bone which had caused the death of a Leopard (*Felis pardus*) in the Society's Menagerie on April 20, under the following circumstances:—

For about a week previous to its death the animal, a fine adult male, had refused food, and, having been separated from its companions, was noticed by the keeper to be apparently suffering from some intestinal obstruction. The animal was in good condition and very fat. On opening the abdominal cavity after death, about a gallon of an opaque, dirty-red-coloured, chyly-looking fluid was found in it. There was a large clot of indurated fæces in the large intestine. In addition, near the commencement of the jejunum, was found a small bolus of straw that had been swallowed, as is often done by these animals in the absence of grass. In this a triangular splinter of bone, about 1½ inch long by 1 inch high, with a very sharp edge, had become impacted firmly, so much so as to perforate the walls of the intestine, and to project outside into the abdominal cavity for about ⅓ of an inch. The movements of the animal, or the peristaltic action of the intestines, had caused this sharply-projecting angle of the bone to cut through the intestinal walls for the distance of some 2 inches. Through this wound the juices of the stomach and intestinal canal, together with the fluid swallowed by the animal had apparently leaked, and had given rise to the accumulation of fluid in the abdominal cavity which had caused death.

Prof. Flower called the attention of the meeting to the fact that a young specimen of the Lesser Fin-Whale (*Balanoptera rostrata*), fifteen feet long, taken off the coast of Cornwall, was now being exhibited in London.

The following papers were read:—